

April 1, 2011

congressman
ROBERT BRADY
serving pennsylvania's first district

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The Brady Brief - National Minority Health Awareness Month

Dear Friend,

Recently, I proudly introduced H.Res. 171, legislation to recognize April as National Minority Health Awareness Month. This piece of legislation is extremely important to me because it works to ensure that there is greater attention paid to the severe health disparities faced by minorities in the nation.

Though the general health of our nation has improved and people are living longer, many racial and ethnic minorities in our country do not enjoy these advances and unfortunately still experience very unequal levels of access, treatment and overall health. African Americans, Hispanics or Latinos, American Indians and Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islanders experience a very disproportionate level of illness or death as compared to the U.S. population as a whole.


While the ten leading causes of death for African Americans and whites are similar, they occur at different rates within each population. For instance, nationally African Americans experience significantly higher rates of infant death, heart disease, all cancers, homicide and HIV/AIDS than whites. Hispanics in the U.S. are almost twice as likely to die from diabetes as are whites and account for 20 percent of the new cases of tuberculosis. Though Asians and Pacific Islanders appear to be one of the healthiest populations in the U.S., there is great diversity in this population; Vietnamese women experience cervical cancer at nearly five times the rate of white women for example. As Philadelphia is culturally and ethnically diverse, these statistics are reflective of the health disparities in our city.

The issue of unequal levels of access to quality medical care and treatment represents a serious reality for minority populations and I believe Congress must do all in its power to correct this disparity. As always, I remain committed to ensuring that all Americans have access to quality, affordable health care, and I will continue my work on this issue.

Sincerely,



Robert Brady
Member of Congress

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